

The Times-Dispatch

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8, 1903.

He is a fool who cannot be angry; but he is a man who will not—English Proverb.

ANOTHER STEP FORWARD.

The Times-Dispatch announces with pleasure that it has secured the services of Mr. Lewis H. Machen, of Alexandria, for the period of the present General Assembly. As a special writer for this paper it will be Mr. Machen's object to give to the people of Virginia more effectively than has ever been done before an idea of what the Legislature is as an organization, of the personnel of the present body, and above all of the work that is being attempted and accomplished.

A trained lawyer, with an intimate knowledge of political conditions in the State, and a member of the last Senate, where he occupied a prominent position in the debates on the floor and the deliberations in committee rooms, Mr. Machen is eminently qualified for such a task, and, with the co-operation of members of the Assembly, will be able to make his daily comments on the session valuable to every Virginian interested in the welfare of the State.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

The General Assembly of Virginia which meets to-day will have many questions of importance to consider, but as there is no intervening holiday in this session, the body may get down to business at once and proceed with the work in hand. It is to be hoped that this course will be pursued. Under the old system, little work was done before the holiday season, and even after the members had returned they were slow to shake off the holiday lethargy. As a consequence, much valuable time was lost and important subjects were sometimes stayed off until the closing days of the session, and then either side-tracked or rushed through without the deliberation that they demanded.

A question of prime importance to be considered is the equalization of State taxes. Lands are assessed in some of the counties at \$2 per acre, in others, respectively, at an average of \$4, \$5, \$6, \$7, \$8, \$9, \$10, \$11, \$12, \$13, \$14, \$15, \$16, \$17, \$18, \$19, \$20, \$21, \$22, \$23, \$24, \$25, \$26, \$27, \$28, \$29, \$30, \$31, \$32, \$33, \$34, \$35, \$36, \$37, \$38, \$39, \$40, \$41, \$42, \$43, \$44, \$45, \$46, \$47, \$48, \$49, \$50, \$51, \$52, \$53, \$54, \$55, \$56, \$57, \$58, \$59, \$60, \$61, \$62, \$63, \$64, \$65, \$66, \$67, \$68, \$69, \$70, \$71, \$72, \$73, \$74, \$75, \$76, \$77, \$78, \$79, \$80, \$81, \$82, \$83, \$84, \$85, \$86, \$87, \$88, \$89, \$90, \$91, \$92, \$93, \$94, \$95, \$96, \$97, \$98, \$99, \$100.

Our primary elections law also needs revision, and some plan should be devised for the payment of the expenses of State primaries. As it is, the poor man is at a deplorable disadvantage in primary contests, if he is not altogether shut out. Some action should also be taken, if possible, to prevent abuses in the payment of poll taxes as a prerequisite to voting.

It is not necessary to say that the State needs a uniform system of accounting and a traveling auditor to examine accounts of State officials and see that proper returns are made. Such a system would doubtless result in a saving to the State far greater than the cost of the service. But whether or not, it should be adopted for the sake of honest and business-like administration of the public affairs.

Our prisons and almshouses should also be inspected regularly, under the direction of a State board of charities, or a commissioner. The experience of other States shows that it is better to have a board, without pay, with a paid agent to visit the institutions and report to the board. We hope the Legislature will thoroughly investigate this important subject and adopt the plan that seems best to accomplish the purpose.

The educational interests of the State demand not only larger appropriations, but more pay for teachers and better paid and more efficient superintendents. We need also a new normal school, which will give special attention to manual training, domestic science and nature study. One of the greatest needs of our public school system is teachers who can teach by object lessons, so that the pupils may learn with their hands as well as with the head.

The State must also improve her public highways, and we are gratified to learn that the Governor has a practical plan which will be outlined and recommended in his message to be read to-day.

Fortunately, the State Treasury now

has a comfortable surplus, and the Auditor estimates that on the present basis of revenues and expenditures there will continue to be an excess of income for the next two years. But in making up its budget the Legislature must provide for the gradual extinction of the public debt. It should at least follow the wise precedent of the last Legislature, and require to be paid into the sinking fund a sum which our agreement requires us to pay in the year 1910 and each year thereafter during the life of the bonds. To fall in this plain duty would be a reflection on our thrift and would undoubtedly injure the credit of the State.

But the question of paramount importance is the promotion of the agricultural interests of the State, for upon the success of the farmers depends the success of the public schools, all public institutions, road-building, and the prosperity of the whole people. The Department of Agriculture needs to be reorganized and inspired with new life. The petty squabbles in the department must be stopped by the firm discipline of the Legislature, and the department should be required to do more demonstrative work. There should be demonstration farms throughout the State, and the great aim of all State endeavors should be to help the farmers to improve their lands, their breed of stock and their methods, so as to bring the greatest results out of their expenditures of money and labor. That is the only true solution of the farm problem and the labor problem.

Richmond is always glad to entertain the members of the General Assembly, and hopes that their stay in the city may be agreeable and enjoyable in a social way, as well as profitable to the State.

MR. ROOSEVELT AND ADMIRAL BROWNSON.

President Roosevelt's public letter to the Secretary of the Navy, in which he goes out of his way to give his opinion of Admiral Brownson, is one of the most surprising documents that ever issued from a man whose documents have frequently surprised before. After forty-six years of admirable service in the Navy, this officer, because he differs from the President, finds himself held up before his countrymen to be rated like a schoolboy. "Unseemly," "discredit," "injurious," "gross impropriety," "childish," "reprehensible," "personal pique," "wounded vanity," "factional feeling," "disloyalty." This is some of the rhetoric which the President of the United States showers upon the head of his former Bureau Chief, the Chief's offense being that he resigned a post which, he felt, he was no longer qualified to fill.

If Admiral Brownson had been wrong to give up this post, he would hardly have merited such language from Mr. Roosevelt. But Admiral Brownson was not wrong. It was his privilege to resign his office at any moment when he no longer desired it. It became his duty to resign it when he saw that his recommendations did not carry weight, and that he and the President were no longer in sympathy. The duties of the Chief of the Bureau of Navigation are to devise with the President and the Secretary of the Navy concerning the personnel, the discipline and the efficiency of the fleet. To have clung to the office after observing the ineffectiveness of his advice would not, therefore, have been "loyalty" on the part of the Admiral. It would merely have been to nullify the possibilities of his office and to make a humiliating and stultifying compromise with his own convictions.

Mr. Roosevelt has the unhappy gift of surprising his admirers disagreeably. It is safe to say that he has shocked them this time rather more deeply than usual. The "pique" and "wounded vanity" of which he writes so excitedly to Secretary McCall seem to the layman far more applicable to his own attitude than to Admiral Brownson's frank and manly letter of resignation. Nor do the facts that that letter and the President's curious and succinct reply were "inadvertently omitted" from the correspondence earlier made public, or that the Admiral's written defense by citation of Federal laws, naval regulations and precedents has not been made public at all, improve the situation from the White House point of view. Admiral Brownson's friends, who are naturally indignant, hint that he will demand a court-martial, and we trust that the President, for his own sake, will also do everything in his power to promote a public exploitation of all the facts involved.

THE CURSE OF RICHES.

Great wealth is not necessarily a curse, but often it is. Look at Harry Thaw and his sister. Each inherited a fortune from a rich father, and a sorry mess they have made of their lives. One will be tried this week for murder, and the other is seeking to break away from a foreign earl whom she married for a title and who married her for her money. Without wealth Harry Thaw might have earned an honest livelihood and conducted himself as a decent, if not a useful, citizen; without money his sister might have become the wife of an honest American workman and lived for love and home, instead of throwing herself away upon a gent of the nobility, who seems to think more of his allowance than he thinks of his wife.

When Harry Thaw and his sister were growing up they were doubtless the envy of all their companions in moderate circumstances. But are they to be envied to-day? Would any of their former associates exchange places with either to-day? On the contrary, would not Harry Thaw exchange places with any boy friend, however poor he may be, who has grown up to be honest and respectable? And would not the Countess of Yarmouth swap off with any one of her girl friends who is happily married?

These hints are thrown out for the

Rhymes for To-Day

KILOGRAMMAR.

I SEEN him when he done it—
"I told no one why."
But well, 'twas her begun it
To hinder her and I.

Id always took to Sady—
I liked the ways of she;
For her was born a lady,
Which were not you nor me.

And when we'd saw her getting
To no more be the same,
Us all began regretting
That her had ever came.

But him, 'twas him as hid it!
"I'll learn it what you meant—"
He hadn't ought to do it,
Nor had she ought to went.

But her and me will floor him—
I ain't begun in fun;
Who'd went there long before him
And witnessed all he done.

I ain't content with scorning—
"I'll lift his map to rag;
Because he took that morning
And leaved her held the bag."

H. S. H.

MERELY JOKING.

Text From Brother Decker.
"I'm a man that economizes in his young days, and I don't want to be a miser in my old age, so I'll make a habit of making room for him."

All in the Air.
"That fellow Dussy never seems to have anything but a 'D' in his name."
"He's very busy now, he tells me."
"What's he doing?"
"Getting out of his way for a wireless telephony company."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Well Protected.
Nervous Old Lady (on seventh floor of hotel): "Do you know what precautions the proprietor of the hotel has taken against fire?"
Porter: "Yes, mum! he has the place insured for twelve vel it's worth."

He Didn't Deserve It.
Flunkers: "But I don't think I deserve an absolute zero."
Professor: "No, sir; neither do I. But it is the lowest mark an allowed to give. Good day."—Yale Record.

A Little Higher.
Lawyer: "I can get you a divorce without publicity for about a hundred pounds."
Society Woman: "How much more will it cost with publicity?"—Illustrated Bits.

Almost An Insult.
"What's the matter, Algy?"
"Why, dash it all, that big girl over yonder, don't you know, she asked me if I had a powder rag with me!"—Washington Herald.

Nothing in It for Sady.
An English tourist came upon a farmhouse in a remote glen. How delightful to live in this solitary spot! he remarked to the farmer.

"I'm not so sure about that, sir," replied the farmer. "I've had you like to have a good fifteen miles for a glass of whiskey?"
"Oh, said the tourist, but you could have done it for the sort of man I was."

The farmer shook his head. "Ah, man," he said, seriously, "whiskey! 'not keep!"—London Tit-Bits.

TABLE TALK IN TEXAS.

[From the Houston Post.]
WHILE we cannot state definitely when the Houston banks will resume full currency payments, it is a long way off that the Houston resumption will be far sunnier and more refined than the resumption of the banks of the State.

Private dispatches from Pine Knot inform us that the President is having a strenuous time of it. We suppose he is getting just what he wants, for if he had merely desired rest we are confident he would have gone to Rio-Santos in Texas.

Richmond's bank clearings during 1902 were \$323,000,000, or about one-fifth of Houston's aggregate. That is doing fairly well for a slow town like Richmond.

If the President really wants to know why he failed to bag a "possum" in Virginia, we will state that he was the last "possum" of Virginia in 1878.

Fred Harkin has made a historical survey and confirms our claim that Texas was explored by Europeans generations before the Jamestown landing. He reports that a Virginian to cheer on this bit of truthful information while Fred is invited to return to the State and live in luxury for a fortnight at our expense.

While we love to dwell upon the genuineness of the Meeklenburg Declaration and the certainty that Andrew Jackson was born in a log cabin, we are compelled to admit that our ordinary citizens are not so certain of the genuineness of the old North State as are the people to pass through without making stops.

Very Likely Not.
"Ha! ha! ha!" ranted H. Tragedy. In the dungeon scene, "I'm mad, mad, mad!"
"El! bel," yelled a voice from the gallery, "you ain't near so mad as you fellows that paid to get in!"—The Catholic Standard and Times.

Famous Words of Famous Men.

"Boldness, Still More Boldness, and Always Boldness."

DANTON, French Revolutionist, Sept. 2, 1792.

Be bold, be bold, and everywhere a bold!—Long-cellow in "Moriuri Salutamus."

Another translation of this expression is, "Be bold! Be bold! Always be bold!" It is a very old proverb, but Danton gave it new life.

"While blood was flowing in streams in every prison," says Prudhomme, "Danton, with his associates, Desmoulins, Robert, Favre d'Englatine and their wives sat down to a splendid banquet."

A more fitting sidelight of the utter heartlessness of the reigning Commune, in those days of wanton human butchery, could hardly be given. From Sunday, September 20, until September 27, or for a period of five days, the Commune employed their weapons upon the bodies of over a thousand innocent victims, and the ghastly remains were piled up in the streets.

These atrocities were committed by order of the National Assembly, which, the commander of the allied Austrian and Prussian armies. This alien general of an alien force appealed to all of Europe to securely

replace Louis XVI. upon the throne, from which he had been removed by his own subjects. The communists of all Paris were aroused to a sense of their danger.

In revenge for this interference upon the part of foreign powers, and to show the necessity of the determination of the revolutionists, Danton and his associates determined upon the massacre of all royalists who were confined in the prisons of Paris.

The committee was entrusted with the enforcement of this infamous order, and every detail needed to make the task effective was supplied.

The National Assembly, sitting amid the horrors of that feast of blood on September 20, heard first the decree of the municipality which summoned all Paris to the Champ de Mars to be armed. The fight with the Prussians at Verdun had gone down to a splendid banquet.

The French, and the old enemy was on the march for the gates of Paris. One deputy falsely said Russia was preparing for an attack upon the French Republic, and still another patriot of the hour asked for 1,000,000 of francs for a war defense fund.

Then came Danton.
"See Danton enter," says Carlyle, "the black blows clouded, the grim energy looked from all the features of the rugged man! Strong it was that grim son of France, and of earth's reality and not a formula, he, too!"

"Legislators!" so speaks the stenographer, "it is not the alarm can not that you hear, it is the pass de charge against our enemies. To conquer them, to hurl them back, what do we require?"

"I nous faut de l'audace, et encore de l'audace, et toujours de l'audace." We require boldness, still more boldness, and always boldness.

And when we'd saw her getting
To no more be the same,
Us all began regretting
That her had ever came.

But her and me will floor him—
I ain't begun in fun;
Who'd went there long before him
And witnessed all he done.

I ain't content with scorning—
"I'll lift his map to rag;
Because he took that morning
And leaved her held the bag."

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VOICE OF THE PEOPLE.

The Times-Dispatch will print signed letters on all questions which relate to the public welfare. Such articles should not exceed in length 150 words, except under exceptional circumstances, and should be addressed to the Editor of the Times-Dispatch, and should bear his or her address. The name of the writer will be withheld if desired.

Practical Special Writer.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch:
Sir,—In perusing the columns of The Times-Dispatch of the 6th inst., my attention was attracted to the article written by former State Senator Lewis H. Machen, from Alexandria, Va., in which he suggested that the General Assembly, as Mr. Machen has wisely said, "first and foremost, there is a surplus in the State Treasury of over \$700,000. It is a conservative guess that over half of the bills introduced will contemplate taxing a portion of the same." If the writer had taken note of the surplus in the Treasury, he would have suggested that the surplus be used to pay the bills, and not to tax the people.

Richmond, Va., Jan. 7, 1903. REX.

CHRISTMAS REIGN.

By BARONESS EMMUSKA ORCZY.

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CHAPTER IV.—Continued.

Neither of them seemed much above thirty years of age, and the two men, or a man in the prime of life and in the full enjoyment of all the good things which the world can give.

But in their actual appearance they presented a marked contrast.

The one tall and broad-shouldered, florid of complexion and somewhat red about the hair, with small, pointed beard; the other short, slender and alert, with keen, white eyes and with sensuous lips forever curled in a smile of thinly-veiled sarcasm.

Though outwardly on most familiar terms together, there was distinctly apparent between the two men a reserve and even of decided, if perhaps friendly, antagonism.

"Well, my lord, Everingham," said the Spaniard, after a while, "what say you to my invention?"

"I say first and foremost, my lord," replied Everingham with studied gallantry, "that my prophecy proved correct, and that the Spaniard was right, no proof against Spanish wiles; as unveiled at a smile from Don Miguel, Marquis de Suarez, the envoy of His Majesty, the King of Spain."

"Nay!" rejoined Don Miguel, affecting not to notice the slight tone of sarcasm in his friend's exultant voice, "I am not a Spaniard, but a Lord Everingham seemed lost in meditation."

"You are thoughtful, my lord," remarked Don Miguel, "and I am sure the Moon conquered your own unusually lively spirits."

"Nay, I was thinking of the curious resemblance that is with Everingham. A resemblance—to whom?"

"As you say, the tent was dark and ill-kempt, that witch, whom they call Mirab, is the very physical counterpart of the Duke of Wessex, the Lady Ursula Glynde."

"The fiancée of the Duke of Wessex," exclaimed the Spaniard, "Impossible!"

"Nay, my lord," rejoined Everingham pointedly, "she scarce can be his fiancée, as yet. They were once betrothed, but when her father plighted their troth."

The Spaniard made no immediate reply, but he affected, as he spoke, a black moustache. Everingham, on the other hand, was eyeing him keenly, and with a look of intense challenge, and, in a moment, antagonism between the two men appeared more marked than before.

At last, with assumed nonchalance, "that Lady Ursula's father—the Earl of Truro, was it not?"

"Truro, was it not?" asked the Spaniard, "and he was a Duke of Wessex, whenever he claimed her, or live?"

"Nay, my lord," rejoined Everingham, "the Duke of Wessex, whenever he claimed her, or live?"

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HEARD AND SEEN IN PUBLIC PLACES.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir,—In a recent drive of only four miles I counted no less than four carriages with spoked wheels and ornate carvings, and a number of people who were driving away at any furred or feathered object they could find. It would not take much of the sort of thing to make a mockery both of religion and civilization. If none of these things explain the ghastly phenomena, what is the explanation?"

BENJ. C. MOOMAW.

PROTECT THE BIRDS.

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